

Item Number 2
Approval of Minutes
Florida MPO Advisory Council
Governing Board Meeting
Minutes of the April 7, 2011
Tallahassee, Florida

Governing Board Members in Attendance:

Mayor Richard J. Kaplan, Chair, Broward MPO
Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie, Vice-Chair, Palm Beach MPO
Commissioner Nathaniel Birdsong, Polk TPO
Councilmember Tom Leonardo, Lee County MPO
Councilmember Lara Bradburn, Hernando County MPO
Commissioner Leigh Matusick, Volusia TPO
Mayor Rocky Randels, Space Coast TPO
Councilmember Jim Wood, Okaloosa-Walton TPO
Commissioner Jennifer Hill, Lake-Sumter MPO
Councilmember Delores Madison, Capital Region TPA
Mayor Walter T. Kelley, Bay County TPO
Commissioner David Garofalo, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Commissioner Paula DeLaney, Gainesville MTPO

Others in Attendance:

Francis Gibbs, FDOT Interim Secretary
Debbie Hunt, FDOT Assistant Secretary
Howard Glassman, MPOAC
Brigitte Messina, MPOAC
Alex Bond, CUTR
Jeff Kramer, CUTR
Randy Whitfield, Palm Beach MPO
Dennis Dix, Hernando County MPO
T.J. Fish, Lake-Sumter MPO
Gregory Stuart, Broward MPO
Mary Bo Robinson, Bay County, Florida-Alabama and Okaloosa-Walton TPOs
Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Keith Melton, Federal Transit Administration
Lee Ann Jacobs, Federal Highway Administration
Bob Romig, FDOT
Marlie Sanderson, Gainesville MTPO
Kathleen Neill, FDOT
Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO
Bob Jones, FCRC Consensus Center

Hal Beardall, FCRC Consensus Center
Bob Herrington, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Ron Gogoi, Lee County MPO
Anita Vandervalk, ITS Florida/Cambridge Systematics

Others in Attendance:

DeLania Hardy, Association of MPOs
Bennett Lipscomb, Association of MPOs
Tamara N. Christian, FHWA
Harry Reed, Capital Region TPA
Terry Joseph, West Florida RPC
Yvonne Arens, FDOT
Stacie Blizzard, Federal Highway Administration

1. Call to Order

Chairman Richard J. Kaplan, Broward MPO, called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. The presence of a quorum was noted. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Chair announced that the AMPO agenda item would be moved up in the agenda. The change was approved by acclamation.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner David Garofalo, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, to approve the April 7, 2011 meeting minutes. Councilman Jim Wood, Okaloosa-Walton TPO, offered a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Chair welcomed Mr. Francis Gibbs, Interim FDOT Secretary.

3. Executive Director's Report

Howard Glassman began the MPOAC Executive Director's report. He discussed the MPOAC budget, which is 73% spent through the first three quarters. He thanked MPOAC Governing Board members for sending local funds to support government affairs efforts.

Next Mr. Glassman gave the state legislative status report. He first discussed the growth management bill (HB 7129). The bill as proposed revises requirements for transportation elements of local government comprehensive plans. There is a proposed amendment to allow sectors plans of 15,000 acres to have expedited review, be exempt from DRI review, and be subject to MPO input. There is also a bill to limit state commentary to certain projects. A proposed bill would establish a 10-year plan which includes multimodal connection facilities such as seaports (HB 399). This would not intrude too heavily on MPO long range plans, and may supply superior information to the MPO planning process. Top-down project selection bills (multiple Senate and House versions) appear to have lost steam and probably will not pass this

session. Mr. Glassman said that the top-down project selection process bills is going to be a two-year effort and will likely appear again next year.

Next Mr. Glassman discussed the consolidation of toll authorities with the Turnpike Enterprise, SPB 1798. The bill has passed the Senate, but does not have a House companion bill yet. Mr. Glassman summarized the transportation corridors bill, the Pinellas County MPO bill, and the red light-running repeal bill.

Mr. Glassman discussed a proposed bill, HB 7207, to direct documentary stamp tax proceeds into the Governor's Office of Trade, Tourism and Economic Development (OTTED). Total amount could be \$470 million. Up to \$170 million could come from the State Transportation Trust Fund. Mr. Glassman expressed concern that the change could result in dramatic reductions in transportation funding, and may not be used ineffectively for transportation. Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie, Palm Beach MPO, moved to approve drafting a letter expressing concern over the diversion of documentary stamp proceeds to OTTED. Mayor Walter Kelley, Bay County TPO, seconded the motion. Councilmember Lara Bradburn, Hernando County MPO, asked if there was any staff analysis on this proposal, including how it may affect project selection. Mr. Glassman and Chairman Kaplan said there was no information. The motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner Leigh Matusick, Volusia TPO, asked if there was any action on distracted driving. Mr. Glassman said there have not been any bills heard on this subject during this session. Commissioner Matusick asked about FDOT policy regarding Flagler County's ascension into MPO status. Ms. Debbie Hunt said that Department policy was for MPOs that are more regional in scope. Therefore, Flagler County would likely need to join with an adjoining MPO, possibly either the Volusia TPO or North Florida TPO.

4. MPOAC Transportation Revenue Study

Steve Reich, from the Center for Urban Transportation Research at USF gave a presentation on the progress of the MPOAC Revenue Study. The Revenue Study Advisory Committee (RSAC) has submitted a list of options which will be discussed. He discussed the project timeline and said the next RSAC Committee meeting is scheduled for September 15th in Tallahassee. The goal is to narrow the options from 40 to 16. He showed several tables discussing revenue sources available today. None of the revenue techniques are being recommended. He then showed tables with possible revenue streams and their political acceptance, revenue potential, cost to implement, and whether the charge would be controlled by users. He said that vehicle miles traveled taxation was heavily discussed. A charge of 1 cent per mile would generate over \$2 billion, which is about the level going into the trust fund today. Mr. Reich said that the vehicle miles traveled experiment in Portland was investigated, and discussed several successes and pitfalls of that project. The sixteen options that were recommended for full study were discussed individually.

The Chair asked for a motion to accept further study on the 16 outlined revenue streams, and to engage our partners for comments. Councilmember Lara Bradburn asked how revenues might be split between counties and cities, what types of materials would be subject to the sales tax on motor vehicle consumables, what the approach for real property appraisal would be acceptably low, and said VMT privacy issues are important to her. Discussion ensued on the methodology and technology options for VMT-based taxation to reduce the potential for privacy violations. Councilmember Tom Leonardo, Lee County MPO, asked if individual MPOs can provide input to the committee studying these issues. Mr. Reich said that comments can be funneled through Chairman Richard J. Kaplan, Florida League of Cities, Florida Association of Counties and other associations or directly to Mr. Reich.

Commissioner Paula DeLaney, Gainesville MTPO, made comments on how expanding tolls had roadblocks other than political issues. Mr. Reich said that state law must authorize toll authorities. Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie asked about sales taxes on vehicle consumables. The Chair explained that it is not a tax increase, but is instead a diversion of existing funds. Mayor Walter Kelley said that there should be restrictions on the transportation trust fund being diverted to the general fund. Francis Gibbs, FDOT Interim Secretary, made comments about maximizing revenue from tourists instead of current residents. Councilman Tom Leonardo made comments about how new taxation systems may create new bureaucracies and levels of government. Councilman Tom Leonardo echoed Mr. Gibbs' comments about maximizing tourist-related taxes as long as we understand the impact of the decision. The Chair said that he felt that the taxation should not be punitive, but most times the taxation is not noticed by travelers.

Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie made the motion requested by the Chair to pursue further study on the 16 potential revenue streams. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Paula DeLaney. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

DeLania Hardy, Executive Director of AMPO discussed current activities in Congress, USDOT, and AMPO issues. She discussed the current appropriations situation, and summarized which programs had received cuts. She informed the members of House rule changes. All spending guarantees were repealed, and the budget must be considered year by year. This negatively affects transportation spending, since some programs were guaranteed for multiple years.

She discussed the priorities of each house of Congress regarding reauthorization. There are several sticking points for reauthorization, including size and length of the bill. There is general agreement with performance based planning and a national freight interest. There continues to be an emphasis on private sector participation. Early concerns about the MPO role have been minimized. There is an emphasis on quicker project delivery. Some programs are facing elimination or consolidation. She discussed some of the points of the administration's proposal. She also discussed what AMPO is asking for: more PL funds, increased sub-allocation of funding (including sub-allocation of more programs), and increased project selection

authorize. The reauthorization timetable is not favorable. A bill needs to be complete by September or it will be rolled into the presidential election. The House will introduce a bill in April/May. USDOT will send a proposal to the Office of Management and Budget for review shortly. There is no available timeframe for a Senate bill. Bennett Lipscomb (AMPO) discussed the budget impasse. He informed the members of the AMPO Annual Conference, which is planned for October 25-28, 2011 in Dallas, TX. The Chair asked about the designation threshold for new MPOs, and Ms. Hardy described the positions of federal stakeholders, which range from 100,000 to 200,000.

6A. FDOT Report

Bob Romig, FDOT State Transportation Development Administrator gave the FDOT report. He said that MPO project priority lists must be submitted by September 1st. The change is required because the legislature meets earlier next year (January 10, 2012) to accommodate redistricting.

Next he discussed the Revenue Estimating Conference from March. The REC increased the estimates for documentary stamps, which reverses a trend of declining receipts. The gas tax sources were reduced by \$190 million. FDOT is watching the legislature closely, and is encouraged that a trust fund sweep does not appear in any Senate bill. He discussed several bills that are currently being considered. The SIS Strategic Plan was adopted in January, and it is currently being implemented. The FIHS will be eliminated by this session's FDOT bill and be absorbed by the SIS. There is currently an effort to establish a SIS Unfunded Needs plan.

Mr. Romig discussed the Department's opinion on one vs. two year UPWPs. The Department wants all UPWPs to be uniform, but does not have a preference regarding length. Councilman Tom Leonardo asked about the motivation behind consolidating expressway authorities. Mr. Romig said that it was not an FDOT initiative, and that the legislature expressed their opinion that it was to streamline government.

Chairman Kaplan departed the meeting. Vice-Chair Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie became Chair.

6B. FTA Report

Keith Melton, Community Planner from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) presented the FTA report. FTA has undertaken studies on premium transit in Tallahassee, Gainesville, and Orlando. They have found many cities in Florida are looking for premium transit such as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) or rail. FTA announced a TIGER II grant award for the Parramore BRT, which will extend the LYMMO system 2.1 miles. This is a \$10 million federal award (\$2.5 million local) match.

6C. FHWA Report

Lee Ann Jacob gave the Federal Highway Administration report. She said MPOs would be asked to update freight profiles. She told the members that FHWA would be affected by any shutdown, but may not be as affected as other agencies. She also informed the members NHTSA released a report showing the lowest traffic fatalities in several decades. Fatalities decreased across the board. Next she discussed a review of regulations, which is required by executive order. Comments can be sent to www.dotregreview.ideascale.com. People are encouraged to provide comments on existing regulations.

She discussed the President's budget. The budget covered FY 2012, but also included a proposal for a 6 year \$556 billion transportation reauthorization. She discussed several of the budget's priorities, including safety, livability, leadership awards, and research. Councilman Thomas Leonardo asked a question about the use of CNG and if there are any federal initiatives to encourage its use as a vehicle fuel. Ms. Jacobs said there was discussion but no specific proposals or programs she was aware of. Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie agreed that CNG should have more emphasis. Commissioner Paula DeLaney said that fleet turnover will take some time, and many cities want to begin making the transition.

Commissioner David Garofalo introduced a letter on the ITS system in the Sarasota/Manatee area. This letter inquired about permission to install fiber optics in road right-of-way concurrent with ITS infrastructure installation.

7. Intelligent Transportation Society of Florida

Anita Vandervalk-Ostrander, from Cambridge Systematics, Inc. and the ITS Florida Chapter, gave a presentation on Chapter activities. She gave a background presentation on what ITS Florida does, and encouraged MPOs to join as members. ITS Florida has compiled delay and costs of congestion in several Florida regions. The organization is expanding into traffic operations. Operation is expected to be increasingly important in a climate of shrinking resources. ITS Florida is supporting legislation that increases revenues, protects the state transportation trust fund, establishes performance measurement, and finishes construction of ITS infrastructure. ITS America is pushing the SMART Technologies for Communities Act in the US Congress, which would create 6 pilot programs to use ITS to reduce collisions, improve emergency response, and enhance mobility. She also encouraged MPO staff to attend.

Mr. Glassman introduced the Staff Director's Committee recommendation to draft a letter in support of the SMART Technologies for Communities Act. Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie requested the Governing Board make a motion to create an endorsement letter for the SMART program. Councilman Thomas Leonardo made the motion. A second was received from Commissioner David Garofalo. Commissioner Paula DeLaney said that ITS activities can make a major improvement, as shown by Gainesville and Bay County's signal timing efforts. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Communications

Mr. Glassman said the Communications were self-explanatory.

9. Member Comments

During Member Comments, Mayor Rocky Randels thanked Lee Ann Jacobs for connecting him with a livability specialist at FHWA.

10. Public Comments

During Public Comments, Jeff Kramer discussed the MPOAC Institute, and announced the next Institute training will be held May 13-15 in Tampa. He encouraged MPO Board Members to attend.

11. Adjourn

Commissioner Paula DeLaney made a motion to adjourn. Seeing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.